

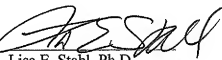
REMARKS

By the foregoing amendments to the claims, claim 63 has been amended to correct an editorial error. In particular, claim 63 has been amended to clarify that the coating of the first particle is in direct contact with "the surface of" the first pellet.

This amendment is merely editorial in nature and is not intended to change the scope of the claims or any elements recited therein. The amendments to the claims have been made without prejudice or disclaimer to any subject matter recited or canceled herein. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to any canceled subject matter. No new matter has been added, and entry of the foregoing amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any questions related to this response, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed telephone number concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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